| | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| **Notice of Allowability** | 10/800,038 | SUGAHARA ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Cheyne D. Ly | 2168 | |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--*

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to <u>September 06, 2007</u>.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>5,7 and 11-17</u>.

3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some*    c) ☐ None   of the:

      1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    **Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date <u>9/28/07</u> .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

## EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.      An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee.

2.      Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with

Pete Towson on September 28, 2007.

3.      **REPLACE** Claim 5 with claim 5 amended by examiner (without underlined and cross
marked) set forth below:

4.

5. A method of searching for data comprising a plurality of metadata, wherein each
metadata includes at least a global unique identifier, a data index and a description
sentence of base data, said global unique identifier being an identifier for identifying a
specific object, each of said metadata being associated with corresponding base data
by said data index and being associated with said specific object by said global unique
identifier, each of the plurality of metadata being capable of including the same global
unique identifier, the method comprising the steps of:

entering said global unique identifier; capturing a set of metadata including said
entered global unique identifier; and

searching for a first specific metadata based on a description sentence included in
each metadata in said captured set of metadata;

wherein said description sentence of said metadata in said captured set of metadata is
a sequence of words, the method further comprising the steps of:

 (a) holding said captured set of metadata and obtaining and presenting words at the
beginning of description sentences included in said set of captured metadata;

 (b) selecting and entering one word from said presented words;

 (c) holding only said captured metadata having a description sentence including a
word matching said entered word among said held captured metadata;

(d) obtaining and presenting a word from the description sentence of said held metadata, said obtained and presented word being at the position in the sequence next to said matching word;

(e) repeating said steps (b) through (d) until the word obtained at said step (d) is the last word of any description sentence of the held metadata; and

(f) presenting a metadata among the held metadata and the description sentence of which has the last word at said step (e) as the last word.

**REPLACE** Claim 7 with claim 7 amended by examiner (without underlined and cross marked) set forth below:

7. The data search method according to claim 5, further comprising, after said step (f), the steps of:

(g) selecting said presented metadata to be said first specific metadata and further performing said steps d, e, and f; and
(h) repeating said step (g) until said presented metadata is determined as said first specific metadata.

**REPLACE** Claim 11 with claim 11 amended by examiner (without underlined and cross marked) set forth below:

11. A data search method comprising a plurality of metadata, wherein each of metadata includes at least a global unique identifier, a data index and a description sentence of a base data, said global unique identifier being an identifier for identifying a specific object, each of said metadata being associated with corresponding base data by said data index and being associated with said specific object by said global unique identifier, said metadata further including a type of said associated base data, each of the plurality of metadata being capable of including the same global unique identifier, said description sentence being a sequence of words, a word of said description sentence being able to be represented as a variable of a specific data type, a first specific metadata including a specific description sentence being searched for from a set of metadata associated with a first global unique identifier, the method comprising the steps of:

entering said first global unique identifier and a second global unique identifier;

specifying a combination search of metadata including said first global unique identifier and metadata including said second global unique identifier;

capturing a set of metadata including said first global unique identifier or said second global unique identifier;

 (a) holding said captured set of metadata and obtaining and presenting words at the beginning of description sentences included in said set of metadata;
 (b) selecting and entering one word from said presented words;
 (c) holding only said captured metadata having a description sentence including a word matching said entered word among said held metadata;
 (d) obtaining and presenting a word from a description sentence of said held metadata, said obtained and presented word being at the position in the sequence next to said matching word;
 (e) repeating said steps (b) through (d) until a word obtained at said step (d) is the last word of any description sentence of the held metadata;

said steps (a)-(e) being performed with a set of metadata including said first global unique identifier regarded as a set of captured metadata;

if the word selected at said step (b) is said variable: indicating that the metadata combination search is selectable; and selecting said combination search of metadata; and if said metadata combination search is selected:

capturing a second set of metadata including said first global unique identifier or second global unique identifier and including the same data type as said variable; and

searching for a second specific metadata based on a description sentence included in said held metadata in said second set of metadata.


**REPLACE** Claim 12 with claim 12 amended by examiner (without underlined and cross marked) set forth below:

12. The data search method according to claim 11 further comprising the steps of:

 (f)presenting a metadata among the held metadata and the description sentence of which has the last word at said step (e) as the last word; steps (a)-(e) and (f) being performed with a second set of metadata regarded as a captured set of metadata;

(i) making a selection between determining that the metadata presented at said step (f) be said second specific metadata and again performing said steps (d), (e), and (f); and

(j) repeating said step (i)until said presented metadata is determined as said second specific metadata.

**REPLACE** Claim 13 with claim 13 amended by examiner (without underlined and cross marked) set forth below:

13. The data search method according to claim 12 further comprising the steps of:
(k) if said metadata combination search is selected, temporarily storing said held metadata and said variable; and
if said second specific metadata is located:
(l) reading said temporarily stored held metadata and said variable; and
capturing and presenting a word in a description sentence at the position next to the word which is represented by said variable, said description sentence from which said word is captured and presented being included in respective metadata in said held metadata.

**REPLACE** Claim 14 with claim 14 amended by examiner (without underlined and cross marked) set forth below:
14. The data search method according to claim 13 comprising the steps:
(m) making a selection between determining that metadata presented at said step f are said first specific metadata and further performing said steps (d)(e) and (f); and
(n) repeating said step (m) until said presented metadata is determined as said first specific metadata.

**REPLACE** Claim 15 with claim 15 amended by examiner (without underlined and cross marked) set forth below:
15. The data search method according to claim 14 further comprising the steps displaying a first icon corresponding to said first global unique identifier; and
displaying a second icon corresponding to said second global unique identifier;
wherein said step of specifying a combination search of metadata comprises dragging-and-dropping one of said first icon and said second icon onto the other.

**REPLACE** Claim 16 with claim 16 amended by examiner (without underlined and cross marked) set forth below:
16. The data search method according to claim 11 further comprising the steps
displaying a first icon corresponding to said first global unique identifier; and

displaying a second icon corresponding to said second global unique identifier; wherein said step of specifying a combination search of metadata comprises dragging-and-dropping one of said first icon and said second icon onto the other.

**REPLACE** Claim 17 with claim 17 amended by examiner (without underlined and cross marked) set forth below:

17. The data search method according to claim 11 further comprising the steps of: (k) if said metadata combination search is selected, temporarily storing said held metadata and said variable; and repeating steps (a) – (f) further comprises capturing and presenting a word in a description sentence at the position next to the word which is represented by said variable, said description sentence from which said word is captured and presented being included in said held metadata.

## REASON FOR ALLOWANCE

The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention individually or in combination the limitation of :

"(a) holding said captured set of metadata and obtaining and presenting words at the beginning of description sentences included in said set of captured metadata;
 (b) selecting and entering one word from said presented words;
 (c) holding only said captured metadata having a description sentence including a word matching said entered word among said held captured metadata;
 (d) obtaining and presenting a word from the description sentence of said held metadata, said obtained and presented word being at the position in the sequence next to said matching word;
 (e) repeating said steps (b) through (d) until the word obtained at said step (d) is the last word of any description sentence of the held metadata; and
 (f) presenting a metadata among the held metadata and the description sentence of which has the last word at said step (e) as the last word"

as set forth in claim 5, and similarly in claim 11.

1.      Dependent claims 7 and 12-17 being further limiting to the independent claim 5 or 11,

definite, and enabled by the specification are also allowed.

2.      The closest prior art, Clark et al., describes a method of processing content for

distribution over a computer network enables a publisher to identify electronic content and

corresponding metadata (page 1, [0007]).  However, Clark et al. does not teach or suggest the limitations cited above as being free of any prior art when read in the claims as a whole.

## CONCLUSION

3.      Patent applicants with problems or questions regarding electronic images that can be viewed in the Patent Application Information Retrieval system (PAIR) can now contact the USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) for assistance.  Representatives are available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST). The toll free number is (866) 217-9197. When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem.  The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has been corrected.  The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public.

4.      For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199.  The USPTO's official fax number is 571-272-8300.

5.      Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to C. Dune Ly, whose telephone number is (571) 272-0716.  The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

6.    If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Tim Vo, can be reached on (571) 272-3642.

C. Dune Ly
Primary Examiner
9/28/07